

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 17, 18 and 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claims 16 and 19 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 11-15, 17, 18, and 20 are allowed. Applicant further appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 19 recites allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form.

The above amendments add the allowable features of claim 19 to independent claim 1. The only other independent claim is claim 11, which has clearly been indicated as allowed. Therefore, all claims are now clearly in condition for allowance, and Applicant earnestly solicits an early indication therefor in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey et al. (US 4,924,087) in view of Driscoll, Jr. et al. (US 6,356,296). Furthermore, claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey in view of Driscoll, Jr. and further in view of Norton (US 4,139,306). These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

In view of the incorporation of the allowed subject matter from claim 19 into independent claim 1, these rejections have clearly been rendered moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.


Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michael R. Cammarata
Registration No.: 39,491
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant